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Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
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Draft report

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Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (a): Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime

1. The working group held one meeting on 18 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There are clear links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including: trafficking in firearms, wildlife and timber; human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as illegal mining. It was noted that drug trafficking was also a source of financing of terrorism, in some cases;

(b) It was noted that money-laundering was a significant enabling activity that went hand in hand with drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;

(c) It was also noted that there is a constant evolution and adaptation in methodologies of drug trafficking networks in order to evade law enforcement responses;

(d) Drug trafficking routes are also being used for trafficking of other forms of trafficking.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) There is a lack of reliable research and analysis to establish an in-depth understanding of the criminal environment and the linkages between drug trafficking and other types of organized crime;

(b) There is limited awareness of linkages between drug trafficking and other related organized crime types and this is aggravated by a lack of capacity of law enforcement agencies to develop effective law enforcement responses to this fluid criminal environment;

(c) More attention should be given to better identification of illicit financial flows generated by drug trafficking and other organized criminal groups;

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(d) Sharing of knowledge between law enforcement and other relevant agencies on evolving links and modi operandi used by drug and organized crime groups is of utmost importance;

(e) There is a need to broaden the capacity of drug control agencies to develop an enhanced ability to identify other forms of organized crime activities and to optimize the use of financial intelligence.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen efforts in undertaking comprehensive research and analysis to ensure drug trafficking and its links to all forms of organized crime impacting the region are better understood;

(b) Governments are encouraged to develop the capacities of their relevant law enforcement agencies to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking groups linked to other forms of organized crime;

(c) Governments are urged to adapt their training programmes to counter drug and organized criminal groups by including, inter alia, specific programmes related to the investigating and disrupting of illicit financial flows, tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of crime and how to enhance identification of other related forms of organized crime;

(d) It is recommended that Governments make best use of existing regional and international mechanisms to enhance law enforcement coordination and cooperation as well as knowledge of the criminal environment, and target the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

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